

gined with light fulvous. 1st primary very short, the 2nd equal to the 5th, and a little shorter than the 3rd and 4th, which are coequal and longest; the 5th but a trifle shorter than the 3rd and 4th, and longer than the 2nd. The tail is moderate, graduated; the wings are lengthened; the bill moderate; the under tail-coverts extend to fully half the length of the tail; the tarsus and feet are powerful. Arabian specimens will have to be compared; but I have little doubt that this Scinde individual will prove to be a mature male of *L. isabellinus*, H. & E.

Dimensions.

	Long.	Rostr.	Al.	Caud.	Tars.
Ex Scinde. . . .	43		3·87	3·62	·87

In a note (Rev. de Zool. 1853, p. 437), while failing to identify it, and without mentioning its origin, Bonaparte has described a rufous-tailed Shrike under the title of *Lanius jeracopis*, de Filippi. I have been unable to trace the species, but the characters given are those we find in young males of *L. superciliosus*, Lath., ex Malacca.

The following table represents the geographical limits of each species of the group as far as is at present known:—

1. *Lanius cristatus*, Linn. Plains of India, Ceylon, Nipaul, Assam, Bootan, Arakan, Tenasserim.
2. *L. lucionensis*, Linn. Luzon, Formosa, China, Andamans, Nicobars.
3. *L. phænicurus*, Pall. ap. Schrenck. Amur, North China, North-east Siberia, Japan.
4. *L. superciliosus*, Lath. Malay Peninsula, Sumatra.
5. *L. magnirostris*, Less. Malay Peninsula, Sumatra.
6. *L. schwaneri*, Bp. Borneo.
7. *L. arenarius*, Blyth. Punjab, Upper Scinde, South-west Afghanistan.
8. *L. anderssoni* (Strickl.). Damaraland.

XIII.—*Jottings on Birds from my Amoy Journal.* By ROBERT SWINHOE, Her Majesty's Consul, F.Z.S. &c.

1866, May 3rd.—I procured from a fisherman an unusually white Albatros (*Diomedea brachyura*), which on dissection

proved to be a female. It nevertheless had the swollen and convoluted trachea which I before thought was peculiar to the male. The specimen was an old bird.

May 8th.—A bird was brought to me from the country near, identical in most respects with *Coccystes coromandus* (L.) of India, but differing in having the belly and flanks, together with the tibial feathers, of a light dusky-brown washed with yellowish. Length 15 inches; wing 6·6 in.; tail 9·6 in. The outermost tail-feather on either side is tipped with whitish, chiefly on the outer web; the rest have less white as they approach the middle. In other characters the bird is precisely as described in Dr. Jerdon's 'Birds of India' (i. p. 341). My specimen appears to be mature, and I will separate it from the Indian species simply as var. *fuliginiventer* until I have an opportunity of comparing the two forms. I have not before noticed any of the *Coccystes* group of Cuckoos in China.

May 18th.—There are some thirty or forty nests of *Cypselus subfurcatus*, Blyth, under the verandah of a house in Amoy; but they all appear to have separate entrances, each nest one for itself. I sent a man to examine them, and he brought down two dozen eggs. They were all hard-set, did not differ much in size, and presented nothing peculiar.

While out walking in the evening I observed a Black Jackdaw (*Corvus neglectus*, Schleg.) hopping about among the rocks. It was rather tame, and may have escaped from some ship lately down from the north.

May 26th.—Some young unfledged Larks (*Alauda cælix*, Swinh.) brought for me to look at. The Chinese tell the males by three black spots on the yellow tongue of the nestling, one at the tip and the other two on each side of the centre. Those without spots, or with only the two central ones, they reject as females.

June 13th.—I came across a Chinaman carrying a freshly shot *Tantalus*, a form of bird never met with by me before in China. This example is in its first year's plumage, and therefore not easily identified; but it appears to me to unite some of the cha-

racters of the Indian *T. leucocephalus* with those of the Malay *T. lacteus*, Temm., being about the size of the former, but with the less nude face of the latter. It is remarkable for its long legs, the tarse being 1·5 inch longer than that of *T. leucocephalus* in Dr. Jerdon's description. I will name it temporarily

TANTALUS LONGIMEMBRIS, sp. nov.

Length 42 inches; wing 20. Tail of twelve feathers, but slightly graduated, the four middle ones being rounder at their tips, the laterals square-shaped; rather more than 7·5 inches long. Under tail-coverts very fluffy, and extending to 1·5 inch short of the tip of the tail. Bare portion of tibia 8 inches, tarse 9·6, middle toe 5·3, outer toe 4·9, inner toe 3·75, hind toe 2·4—all including claws, the toe-pad extending nearly to the tip of the claw. Bill 10·2 inches along the culmen, and the same from gape to tip of the lower mandible; greatest depth of bill 2·2. Bare skin of forehead 1 inch, descending backwards behind the corner of the eye ·5 inch, advancing again on the lower mandible to about ·75 inch from its base, and running back on the throat into an angle on a plane with its limit behind the eye. Tongue about ·8 inch long by ·2 broad throughout, flat, horny, and rounded off at the tip. Bare skin orange; bill light orange-yellow, tinged, especially towards the tip, with bluish-grey. Inside of the mouth tinted much as the exterior of the bill. A blackish mark runs round the base of the bill. Irides bright yellowish-brown. Head and neck clothed with small feathers, like the same parts on our Pelican, of a light milky-brown with a good many white feathers interspersed. Lower back, rump, belly, and under tail-coverts pure white. Rest of the body light milky-brown, with scattered white feathers. Lesser wing-coverts light brownish-grey, with paler edges and on many feathers a darker shade in the middle and at the base. It is difficult to infer what these feathers may be in the adult. In *T. leucocephalus* they are black, in *T. lacteus* white. Greater coverts blackish hair-brown on the concealed half of the feathers, and milky on the exposed part. These coverts blend with the tertials, which are decomposed and tinted with a fine rose-coloured glow. Rectrices and remiges of a fine bronzed

black. Underwing and axillaries deep hair-brown, the feathers with paler (and some with whitish) edges; the brown extends to the sides of the breast. Tibiæ nearly colourless, slightly tinged with blue and pink, and just tinted with yellow. Tarsi shaded with black along the posterior edge, and tinted with pink down the front; feet dingy, claws black; reticulated edges of scutella white.

The specimen on dissection proved to be a male. The œsophagus, .7 inch wide, contracts gradually to .4, and continues at that width downwards for 3 inches, then expands into a sac .6 wide and 1.5 long; it again contracts, and so continues for 1.5, expanding into the proventricular sac, which is 1.1 wide and 1.5 long: the proventriculus contracts as it reaches the stomach. The stomach is a strong muscular spheroid, flattened at the sides, and about 2.5 in greatest diameter; its walls are thick, and it is coated internally with a thick epithelium, stuffed with remains of crabs and other small crustaceans. Trachea downwards from 1.5 inch above the bronchi composed of very narrow closely set rings keeled down the front, and expanding above the bronchia into a flattened transverse oval. From this last the bronchia are given out, their rings being about double the width of the lower tracheal rings. No keel runs down the back of the trachea, but just above its expansion it gives out a peaked projection. Rings in the upper portion of the trachea from .12 to .1 in. thick. Membrane between the oval expansion of trachea and bronchia narrow and not very perceptible. No muscles are planted on the oval expansion, but a pair are given off from the trachea about 8 in. above the insertion of the bronchia. Sternum with one deep posterior emargination on either side, the lateral processes projecting beyond the posterior point of the keel; furcula fitting closely into the anterior crest of the keel, but not ankylosed to it.

A few days after the acquisition of this specimen I saw a small party of large long-legged birds soaring in circles like Herons over this island: I believed them to be of this species. From its late occurrence here, it is not improbable that this *Tantalus* breeds somewhere in our neighbourhood. It is curious that I have never met with it before. I believe it to be a new

species of this singular group, and I look with anxiety to procuring an adult specimen.

June 18th.—At Amoy the *Larinæ* are only winter visitants; but some of the *Sterninæ* pass the summer in the neighbourhood, as I have before stated. *Sterna caspia* and *Sternula sinensis* I have only found here in winter; but *Sterna velox* I noted breeding at Kelung, in Formosa, and *Sternula sinensis* on the east coast of that island. One often sees the former of these last two in Amoy Bay in summer. But there is still another Tern, at which I have caught repeated glances, both in pairs and in small parties during the hot weather, and, not having procured specimens, I vaguely set it down as *Sterna hirundo* (Ibis, 1866, p. 135). This day I was much pleased by my hunter bringing in, along with some specimens of *S. velox*, several of the unidentified Tern. He told me that he shot them among some small rocks off Quemoy (a large island seaward of Amoy), where they were breeding. Their eggs the hunter had unfortunately converted into "*Chowchow*." It is just in the neighbourhood indicated that I had before watched parties of this small Tern on the sea-washed rocks while passing in a steamer. The examples agree very nearly with *Sterna melanauchen*, Temm., and, indeed, from the wide range of that species, must belong to it. From Dr. Jerdon's description (B. Ind. iii. p. 844), however, it differs in its much longer forked tail, in the fine rosy hue of its whole under-plumage (which that author does not mention at all), in its wholly black bill, and in the madder-red subtint of its legs. I strongly suspect that the bird Dr. Jerdon drew up his description from was a specimen shot in winter, which might account for the short length he allows the tail, and one long exposed in a cabinet open to the light, which would further account for the lack of the blush and the changed hue of legs and bill. Even shut up in closed drawers I find that my skins have lost many of their roses, and that the tips of their bills have become yellow horn-colour. A few words therefore on the appearance of specimens skinned, but not yet stiff, will instruct many of my readers.

Sterna melanauchen, Temm. Length 13 inches; wing 8·5. Tail 7, fork 3·8. Bill along culmen 1·4. Tarse about 75.

Bill entirely black; inside of mouth deep tile-red. Loral region, stripe past the eye, and broad nuchal band black; outer web of outermost primary quill to about $\cdot 5$ inch of its tip grey-black. Legs blackish-brown, with a blood-red transparency about them. Upper parts pale grey, nearly white on the tail and quills, which have white stems and a semitransparent appearance. The new quills of the wings and tail, not full-grown, have a rosy glow even on their stems. Carpal edge of the wing and broad inner margins of quills white, as are also the extremities of the tertials. Forehead, vent, and under tail-coverts pure white, with but a slight blush; the rest of the under parts white, with a lovely glow of rosy. Middle claw with a slight attempt at serration on its falcated edge.

A male *Anas glocitans* died in the aviary of a friend. Its iris was chestnut-brown. Bill deep liver-brown. Legs and toes pale bluish-grey, tinged with brown at the joints, and with deeper brown on the webs and nails.

July 2nd.—My hunter brought me a pair of *Ardetta sinensis*, together with their nest containing five eggs. The nest is loosely put together, and about 10 inches in entire diameter. It is composed of reeds and rushes. The five eggs all differ somewhat in length and breadth, some being more spherical, some more ovate; mean length 1·2 inch; mean greatest breadth 1·1 inch. They are all but white, having just a faint tinge of asparagus-green. All the eggs contained young, but they were of different ages. The most advanced, the bill of which looked as if the tips of the mandibles had been clipped off, was nearly fit to break forth. Its down was of a light fawn-colour. The different stages of these chicks show, I presume, that the hen begins to sit on the first egg. I observed the same habit in *Nycticorax griseus* (Ibis, 1861, p. 54).

Ardetta sinensis, adult. Bill pale sienna-yellow, washed with vandyke-brown; blackish-brown along the culmen. Cere and orbits yellow. Iris bright yellow. Legs, claws, and toes pale sienna-yellow, tinged with green and washed with vandyke; the greenish-yellow bright at the tarsal joint and sulphurous underneath the tarsus near the same joint.

August 1st.—A thunder-cloud obscuring the sun at 6 P.M., I

saw three birds sailing or floating high in the air with pointed wings and with legs protruded behind. From their size and appearance I took them to be *Tantali*.

The examples of *Euplocamus swinhoii* in my aviary skulk all day in the holes of the rockery, and only come out to feed at night: they roost on the high perches. *Phasianus torquatus* does not resort to the holes, even when it is frightened.

August 25th.—The little Button-Quail from Formosa that I had in my aviary was killed this morning by a blow on the back of the head, inflicted by a “Hwamei.” As it was a female in full summer plumage, I will give a description of it.

Turnix rostrata, nobis (Ibis, 1865, p. 543), ♀. Bill light indigo with blackish culmen; rictus and inside of mouth pale indigo. Tongue longo-sagittate, void of papillæ. Iris pearly, with a slight tinge of yellow. Legs light indigo, deeper on the joints and toes, with a greenish wart on the tarse. Skin of the face deep bluish-grey. Feathers of the head black, broadly tipped with white. Chin and throat of a deep black, which extends down to the breast. Lower breast, flanks, upper thighs and rump fine deep chestnut. In other respects, as to colouring, this specimen is similar to the females before described [Ibis, 1866, pp. 403, 404]. Tail composed of eight soft feathers. Total length of fresh bird 6 inches.

Dissection showed a cluster of small ova. Cæca about 1.5 inch from anus, about 1.25 in. long, black, and bulging at their ends into flask-shaped sacs. Stomach nearly 1 inch long, heart-shaped, and somewhat carinated round the narrow sides, with very strong lateral tendons.

The newly fledged young of *Ixus chrysorrhoides* are more dusky than the adult, with less decided markings on the plumage. The crown and throat are tinged with blackish-brown, chiefly near the bill. The vent is the same colour as the belly, and not tinted with crimson. I have one adult specimen of this species from this neighbourhood with the vent a dingy yellow. Mark this!

A *Melanocorypha mongolica* that I have in a cage has a great deal of white about it, and is becoming whiter and whiter. Several of the *Euplocami* of both sexes in my aviary are getting

spotted with white, mostly about the wings. I suppose it must be a sign of debility, for want of proper nourishment.

In relation to *Gallinaceæ* I should like to make an observation or two about the "Rooster." There is a breed here, with a white hair-like plumage and blue-and-white face-wattles, called by Chinese the "Silken Fowl." I dare say it is also known in England. This bird has the skin tinted with black, and black tissue enwrapping its bones, which gives the roast or boiled a decidedly ugly appearance on the table; but its flesh is, nevertheless, white and sweet. This variety, breeding with the ordinary Dunghill race, gives, so far as my observation goes, an offspring, though often externally similar to the latter, yet always with a predominance of black pigment, as in the former. What the colouring-matter is, and how caused, I have not been able to ascertain. Another curious breed of the "Domestic Bird," as the Chinese in figurative language style the *Phasianus gallus* of Linnæus, is the kind called here the "Pine-apple Hen," so named from the strange reversal of all its feathers, even to the quills and tail, towards the head like the leaves of the Pine-Apple. This race, breeding with any other, produces reverted feathers in the offspring. Crossing with the "Silken-Fowl," if a "Silken" brood is produced, as usually happens when the male is the "Pine-apple," the quill-feathers *only* are reversed. These facts, however, may already be known to poultry-fanciers. Our third peculiar breed at Amoy is the large Cochín or Shanghai Fowl, which has had its turn of popularity in England.

Sept. 4th.—Our Solitary Sparrow (*Petrocincla manillensis*) is now about our housetops, and cheers us with his sweet song, glad, it would seem, at being relieved from his arduous nidificatory duties among the solitary hills.

A young *Melophus lathamii* that I have in keeping, besides the usual hop common to *Emberizæ*, occasionally indulges in a shuffling walk.

Sept. 13th.—The first Curlews seen this year.

Sept. 30th.—The first Snipe of the season. Two specimens of *Gallinago solitaria* and one of *G. scolopacina* brought to me by a Chinaman. We do not generally look for the latter till

the middle of October; but the north-east monsoon has begun early this year. *G. stenura* is usually here a little in advance of *G. scolopacina*. By the way, I see some notes on the arrival of Snipes near Calcutta, by Capt. R. C. Beavan (P. Z. S. 1865, p. 690). His field-log is very valuable to those interested in the migrations of Indian Birds; and long may he continue to favour us with such scraps! I might assist him with a hint how to discriminate the species of Snipe even "in a plucked state." The tail, of course, is the first distinguishing character between *G. stenura* and *G. scolopacina*; the second is the underwing, the patches of white on the axillaries of the latter being wanting in the former, which has those parts continuously waved over with dark lines; but the character useful for telling the bird in a nude state is the shape of the bill. Look down on the surface of the bill: in *G. stenura* it keeps on contracting towards its tip, in *G. scolopacina* it expands into a narrow *spatula* at the nervous portion. This last is a sure and constant character, and one that I have never found to fail.

Oct. 23rd.—In my list of the Birds of China (P. Z. S. 1863, p. 317), &c., I introduced (no. 310) "*Eurhinorhynchus pygmæus*" as a Chinese species on the faith of *Limicola pygmæa* of Middendorff. This last, Mr. A. Newton pointed out to me, referred to no. 301 (*Tringa platyrhyncha*, Temm.) ; and I therefore cancelled the insertion (P. Z. S. 1864, p. 272). But now a specimen of *Eurhinorhynchus* has actually occurred here. It was brought to me by my sea-coast hunter this morning. But if Mitchell, in Mr. Gray's 'Genera,' figures the bill correctly, it cannot be the true *E. pygmæus*; and if Dr. Jerdon (B. Ind. iii. p. 692) describes accurately the form found on the coast of India, which he considers identical with the European species, neither can it be that species. I see, however, that Blyth procured in India a form which he considered distinct and described as *E. orientalis*. Both the eastern and western forms may occur on the coasts of the Indian peninsula, as, from other instances that have fallen under my attention, the eastern and western southward migrations of birds appear to culminate in the Indian region; and therefore possibly Messrs. Blyth and Jerdon are both right, but the birds that they handled were different. At all events, until

I learn satisfactorily that the species was founded by Mr. Blyth through a want of acquaintance with the European bird, and not on a really distinct form, I shall adhere to the name bestowed by him. From the bird figured in Mr. Gray's 'Genera' mine differs in having grey-mottled cheeks, in the tibiae being bare to a greater extent—but more especially in the form of the bill, which in mine is broader in the stem, expands into more direct alar angles, and terminates at the tip in a broad isosceles triangle. The form of the stem is lost in the *spatula*; and the sides of the apical angle are very nearly straight, and not festooned, as in the sketch. Mitchell, too, shows the stem of the bill quite distinct in the expanse. Mr. Blyth in his 'Catalogue' mentions two specimens (procured at Amherst) in the Museum at Calcutta, which one would expect to be our bird. Dr. Jerdon's description gives the cheek of the Indian species as snow-white. His bird has more white on the wing than mine; and he applies the term "somewhat obcordate" to the expanded bill of his bird, which could scarcely be applied to that of ours. The primaries of my bird have no white except on their shafts and margins; the secondaries and tertials more nearly correspond with Dr. Jerdon's description. The species has probably a summer dress; in fact there are streaks and specks on the sides of the neck and breast which indicate this, as well as some black feathers edged with yellowish-brown on the back; so we will not take other differences in detail of plumage to prove the distinctness of the two species. The two soft pointed dark central tail-feathers project about .2 in., the black tail-coverts extending to .33 in. of their ends. The other ten rectrices are more rigid, nearly white, and of almost even length, except the outermost on either side, which are .1 in. longer. Tail 1.5 inch.; wing 3.4 inches. Length 5.5 inches. Bill .8 in.; greatest expanse .42. Bare tibia .4; tarse .85; middle toe and claw .75; lateral toes equal; hind toe minute. Bill and legs dark blackish-green*.

* [Mr. Blyth (Ann. & Mag. N. H. 1844, xiii. pp. 178, 179) separated his *Eurhinorhynchus orientalis* from the *E. griseus* of Nilsson (founded on the *Platalea pygmaea*) on account of the discrepancy between the size of the former and that of the latter as given by Shaw from older authors;

Oct. 31st.—I watched the Kites that hovered over the harbour. They pick up offal from the surface of the water with their claws, and as they fly along transfer the morsels to their mouths.

In conclusion, let me point out a slight mistake made by Mr. Tristram in allusion to *Pica sericea* (Ibis, 1866, p. 61). This species descends not only “almost,” but *quite* to the tropics, as it is common enough in Macao and about the city of Canton.

Mr. Blyth asks (Ibis, 1866, p. 238) whether the Merlins mentioned by me as seen on a voyage from Bombay to Galle were satisfactorily identified. The birds in question, one of which I saw in a seaman’s hand, looked extremely like *Falco aesalon*; but I could not now state positively that they were of that species, as the *Falconidae*, unless fully adult, require very careful examination before one can be positive of the species.

Many years ago a pair of Hoopoes (*Upupa epops*) took possession of a hole in the city-wall at Amoy, near my house. The hen sat close until the young were hatched, the male frequently supplying her with food during the day. Hoopoes have often bred in the holes of exposed Chinese coffins; the natives hence have an objection to them, and brand them as the “Coffin-bird.” The young, when hatched, are naked, but soon get covered with small blue quills, which yield the feathers. The tail or *os coccygis* is carried at right angles, and the fæces are discharged to a distance. The little creature has a

but Dr. Hartlaub has shown (Rev. Zool. 1842, pp. 36-38) that these last, as well as some more recent writers, have given a most incorrect and confused account of the bird. It is, to say the least, very doubtful if it has ever occurred either in South America or Europe. The only localities for the few specimens known, that can be depended upon, are entirely eastern. Mr. Swinhoe is right in supposing it to have a summer dress. A specimen in the possession of Mr. Barrow, F.R.S., has the head, neck, and breast of a fine *rufous* colour (P. Z. S. 1859, p. 201). The slight differences noticed by Mr. Swinhoe between the plumage of his specimen and that described by Dr. Jerdon may, we think, be safely set down to age, sex, or season; and the bill (of which our contributor has sent us sketches) corresponds very well with the figure given in the ‘Revue Zoologique’ for 1843 (pl. 2).—ED.]

short bill, and crouches forward, making a hissing noise. It looks a strange compound of the young Wryneck and Kingfisher. They do not stand upright till nearly fledged. Their crests develope at once, but their bills do not acquire their full length till the following year. I am writing this note about the Hoopoes from memory. I forget in what year I made observations on their nesting, and I have not now time to hunt through my file of note-books. As the history of the Hoopoe appears to be so little known at home, I will pay special attention to it in future.

XIV.—Notices of Recent Ornithological Publications.

1. ENGLISH.

THE Ninth and Tenth parts of Mr. Gould's 'Birds of Great Britain' made their appearance on the 1st of August and September last respectively, and fully sustain the encomiums that have been passed on their predecessors. The following is a list of the species they illustrate:—

PART IX.

Eagle Owl.	Thrush.
Roller.	Blackbird.
Woodcock.	Cream-coloured Courser.
Squacco Heron.	Lesser Redpole.
Stock-Dove.	Mealy Redpole.
Crested Lark.	Savi's Warbler.
Tawny Pipit.	Razorbill.
Tree-Pipit.	

PART X.

Honey-Buzzard.	Grey Phalarope (winter plumage).
Jackdaw.	Ditto (summer plumage).
Goosander.	Red-necked Phalarope.
Hooded Merganser.	Turnstone.
Robin or Redbreast.	Marsh-Tit.
Yellowhammer or Yellow Bunting.	Grasshopper Warbler.
Cirl Bunting.	Sabine's Gull.
Ortolan Bunting.	

Anthus campestris, whose appearance as a "British Bird" (a title to which it has far better claims than many other species) was originally recorded in 'The Ibis' (1863, pp. 37-39), here